



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY 2006

December 13th marks the 370th birthday of the National Guard. From its early beginnings in Salem, Massachusetts to the ongoing War on Terrorism, the National Guard continues to serve our country valiantly in war and peace.

Today, over 48,000 men and women from the Guard are serving around the globe in support of the War on Terrorism. We simply could not sustain current operations without the National Guard. The courage and sacrifice of every Guard member are truly inspiring. Your outstanding service as citizen soldiers comforts those in need, and protects our homeland.

The Joint Chiefs and I wish the men and women of the National Guard a happy birthday and thank you for your selfless contribution to our great Nation.

PETER PACE
General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff